Gent.n B.H. May 28. 1774 E.

Boston June 27.th 1774.

A few days since, I received by the hand of the hon.ble Derby, the proceedings of the freeholders & other Inhabitants of the town of Salem at their meeting on the 27.th of may last reputing sundry persons residing in said town, being so inimical, that their further Residence in this State is dangerous to the public peace & safety; Sign'd by M.r Edw.d Norris & Clerk, by your order, and also a complaint directed to Justice Baker & my self praying for a warrant to apprehend said persons & bring them to trial, agreeable to a Law of this State; I immediately informed the Gent.n that represent the town of Salem of the proceedings, and several of them discovered a wish that the Town would again take the matter into consideration, as they could not think that all the persons on the list were such as their continuing among us would endanger the public Peace & safety; and if you Gent.n upon a further consideration of the matter should be of the same opinion, you will doubtless assemble the Town together & take their further determination thereon;

Permit me to mention to you, that in case you should think proper to proceed against the persons on your list, or any of them, the propriety of complaining to me who am a young in office and whether the Complaint should be made to Colo Cushing in my room, (he being president of the Sessions in our County) it would not come with a much better grace;

I should be sorry Gentlemen, if you should be led to think from any think I have wrote, that it proceeds from any backwardness in me to undertake the business if upon a further consideration of the affair it should be thought necessary, as I am determined to do every

every thing in my power to serve the Public, I am sensible that if you should think it adviseable to lay the matter again before the Lords & they should give directions to proceed against them or any of them, it will necessarily postpone the Courts meeting so soon as was proposed, but I submit it to your determination whether the advantages that may arise by a further consideration of the matter may not more than Balance the alteration of the date of a warrant (order for a Venire Facias) that is not yet fully signed

I am Gent.n with much esteem, your most obedient humble Servant.

S Holten

P.S. I forgot to mention that it doth not appear by the vote sent me that Mr. Andrew was chosen by Ballot as the Law requires to procure the evidence which I am of opinion is absolutely necessary that he should have been in order to carry on the process

The Selectmen of the Town of Salem

City of Boston Library

Copy of a letter sent to the Town of Salem

BW 452